

King James's School Newsletter

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Wellbeing Fair

Last night's Wellbeing Fair, led by Miss Jarrett, our Student Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, was a huge success. We welcomed staff and families from our school community, Year 6 families from our primary school links, and parents from our federation partner Boroughbridge High School. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we're excited that this is just the beginning—Miss Jarrett has plans to host many more events like this in the future for both students and families.

The fair featured stalls from a wide range of services external and internal, and we want to extend a huge thank you to all those organisations for being part of the event and making it possible. A special thank you also goes to our talented student musicians who performed throughout the evening: Euan (Year 10), Evie and Bethany (Year 8), Evelyn (Year 12), Ryan (Year 13), and our fantastic Year 11 band—Alistair, Fiona, Tom, Jack, and Alice. The feedback on all the musical performances was truly 5-star!

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this such a positive and memorable evening for our community.



Communication with school

At King James's School, we value positive relationships with parents and carers and we welcome and encourage parental participation in school life, which includes the raising of any concerns. We are committed to dealing with any such concerns fairly and impartially.

However, we please request that in any correspondence with staff in school that they are treated with care and respect. Here at KJS, we don't tolerate any behaviour that is abusive, offensive or threatening.

The Parent/Carer Code of Conduct aims to help school work effectively with parents and carers by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour. This can be found on the school website:

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Federation-Parent-and->

Assemblies

Next week is reflect and review week and students will be spending time in tutor time reflecting on their LC1 report and setting targets for improvement. Assemblies this week will recognise and reward the work students have done in LC1. Assemblies will be delivered by the Associate Assistant Headteachers.

In addition to the recognition and rewards assemblies, Year 9 will be having an assembly delivered by Ms Watson about how GCSE option choices can impact A-Level choices and Post 18 pathways. Year 11 have a guest speaker from Harrogate College coming in to speak to them about Post 16 options at Harrogate College.

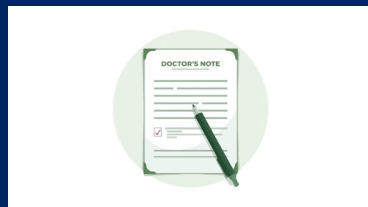
Uniform reminder

A reminder about our uniform expectations, in particular with regards to trousers. Trousers should be plain black - black jeans, leggings, (including flared leggings) and jeggings are not acceptable. Trousers should be plain black, have a waistband, button/fly and no combat pockets. This applies to all students who choose to wear trousers.

Students are encouraged to wear different combinations of the school uniform to ensure they are comfortable when attending school. There must be either Royal or Hunting Stewart tartan present, this can be worn through the kilt or ties. Thank you for your support.

Attendance

Attendance continues to be a national challenge, with figures still rising back towards pre-pandemic levels. A recent Department for Education webinar highlighted that, across the country, many absences are due to children missing the occasional day. Here at King James, we are committed to turning this around. Our goal is to raise our attendance from last year's 91.1% to at least 91.5% this year. A small increase that would mean an incredible 1,098 additional days of learning.



Of course, the recent wave of bugs and viruses has certainly tested everyone's resilience, and we know Mother Nature hasn't made things easy. We're incredibly grateful to our families who continue to do their very best to ensure children are in school whenever they are able. When students are genuinely unwell, we completely understand the need for rest and recovery.

In most situations, medical evidence is not required if your child is too ill to attend. However, for children who are frequently absent due to illness, we may ask for evidence so that we can better understand what support they might need to thrive in school. In a small number of cases where we feel the child may have been well enough to attend and a conversation doesn't resolve the concern, we may request evidence, but please be assured this is always done with your child's wellbeing and success at heart.

If your child is absent, please make sure you complete the student absence form which can be found on our website or click this link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lfvQu1SqFk-56-p9SBOiJiTLMV5CF7hLjaUqpWjrB8xUN1ZBMzhGTUVZQUVQWkVVTVFITUVCTIZFWC4u>

If we don't have an absence form you will receive either a call or a text in the morning, as a safeguarding measure.

Even if an absence form has been complete, if your child is below 90% attendance you may still get a 'check in' phone call in the afternoon to confirm return date, along with an offer for any support or request medical evidence if needed.

If you're unsure whether your child is well enough for school, this NHS website provides helpful guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Let's work together to surpass our 91.5% attendance target and make this year a truly successful one for all our students. If you have any questions, please contact our Attendance Champion, Cathryn Sutherland, sutherlandc@king-james.co.uk

	Whole School	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
16th - 21st Nov	92.3%	95.4%	93.8%	88.7%	90.8%	92.8%	95.0%	93.4%

Careers

Lloyds Banking Group is one of the world's biggest financial services companies, which makes them one of the industry's most prominent players, and they want students to be part of their business via one of their student programmes.

This event will help students better understand how businesses use technology and the future career opportunities available to them. Lloyds Banking Group has over 30 million digital customers, and tech plays a huge role across its entire operations.

Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13. If you have a passion for AI, technology or cyber, then this event is for you! At this event, they will share with you what it's like to work at the bank in their tech divisions, how their teams are driving change on a global scale, and the routes into the bank that are open to you.

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday, 2nd December

Time: 5pm – 6pm

For: Year 11, 12 and Year 13

Location: (Zoom link provided upon registration)

Register now to secure your place:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBG_Cyber

Sculpture Study

Earlier this month the Year 12 Art and Digital Photography students enjoyed a visit to Leeds to take photos and drawings of two prominent public sculptures, 'Hibiscus Rising' by Yinka Shonibare and 'Ribbons' by Pippa Hale. We also visited Victoria Gate to look at the modern architecture and the Corn Exchange to look at the structure of the building and roof.

It was a really good day to spend looking at art together and taking photos. Thank you artists and photographers.



The Week Ahead: 1st December 2025

Day	Event	Year	Time	Location
Mon	MFL Speaking Mock Exams	11 MFL students	Various	
Tue	Townton Battlefield Society KS3 Drama Talent Showcase Dress Rehearsal			
Wed	KS3 Drama Talent Showcase	9		
Thur	Meadowhall Rewards Trip	10	3.30pm depart	Meadowhall
Fri	Sankt Nikolaustag celebrations	All	Breaktime/Lunchtime	



Cyber First Switch up Final

On Tuesday this week, Thomas D and Matthew M in Year 11 took part in the Cyber First Switch up Final competition at the University of Hull.

They took part in four challenging cyber activities, involving programming a robot and taking on the role of a cyber crime investigator.



Performing Arts at Aspin Academy

Our Y13 Performing Arts class completed their adaptation of 'James and The Giant Peach' for Y2 at Aspin Park Academy. The performance was a resounding success and was joyous for both schools. Our Y13 class continued the tradition of sharing our work with local primary students in an exemplary fashion. We are so proud of you.

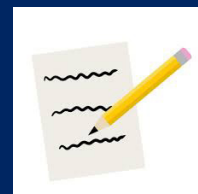
More Drama and Performing Arts news can be found on our Instagram page. @KJS_Drama_Dept



William Akroyd Open Scholarship

This week, six of our Year 13 students sat an exam to enter the annual competition for the William Akroyd Open Scholarship:

- Orla B
- Abigail B
- Marley C
- Emily D
- James F
- Jessica S



If successful, awards will represent a limited but significant contribution to the costs of being a student at university or college next year. They had 2 hours to write an essay chosen from a list of 12 titles; they all selected a different title to match their own personal strengths and interests. We are so impressed by the way they approached this and the enthusiasm shown for this challenge.

Regardless of the outcome, they have all gained exam and essay practice and should be very proud of themselves.

Year 13 Revision Programmes

Year 13 mock exams take place after Christmas, the week beginning Monday 5th December 2025. The subject revision programmes are on the school website on the Sixth Form homepage. Students should be following these programmes to support them with their revision. It breaks content down into weekly topics so that they can chunk their revision. There are also links to useful revision resources on the website.

We wish all our Year 13 students the best of luck in their mocks.

<https://www.king-james.co.uk/year-13-a-level-revision/>



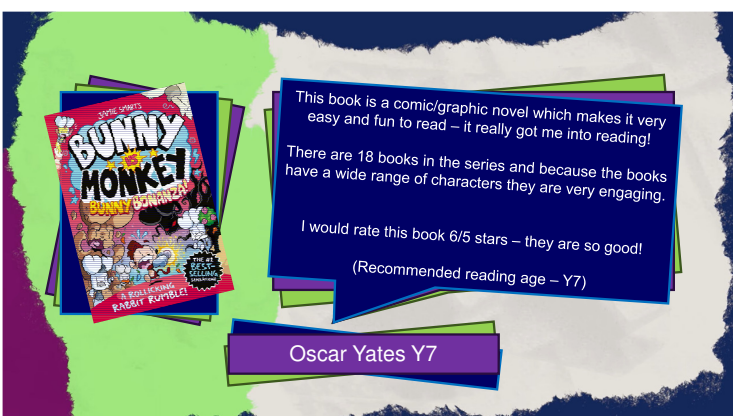
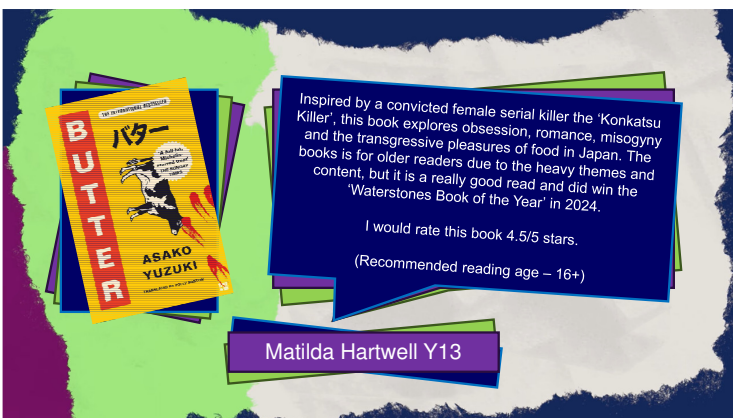
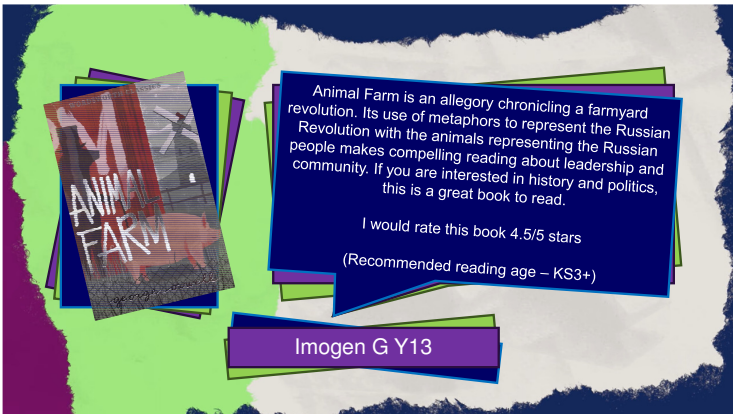
Year 7 and 8 Girls Football

On Tuesday the Year 8 girls football team travelled back to Richmond to play them again, this time in the County Cup. We managed to win by the same scoreline as the previous encounter, 6-0. The girls played some brilliant passing football and Islay scored 5 goals with Honour scoring the other one. Tess managed 4 assists but everyone was outstanding. The next round will be the quarter final after Christmas.

Last night the Year 7 girls played their first ever school match with a friendly triangular tournament at Rossett. The girls played really well and beat Rossett before losing narrowly to Ashville. Imogen scored 5 goals in total, an outstanding effort! The girls really enjoyed the experience judging by the singing on the way home!



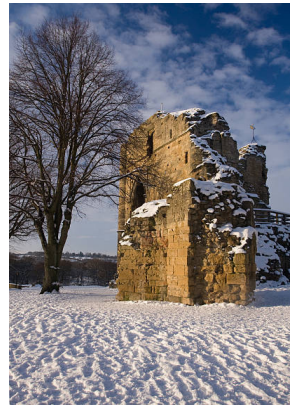
This Week's Student Book Reviews



Musical Achievements

A huge congratulations to the following students who have received outstanding results for their recent ABRSM music exams:

- Lottie H - Grade 2 Clarinet - Distinction.
- Aimee O- Grade 2 Musical Theatre for Singing - Pass.
- Alastair S- Grade 3 Clarinet - Pass.



Student Support Group

Our Student Support Group (SSG) enjoyed trips to the cinema in Harrogate this week as part of the Into Film Festival.

The festival is an annual event, and the programme features thousands of film screenings and special events around the UK aimed at supporting young people to enjoy the big screen experience.

This year we went to see The Bad Guys 2 at the Everyman and Harold and the Purple Crayon at the Odeon - we also took the opportunity to check out a few Christmas trees on route!

'I really enjoyed the film festival trip. The film was really funny and it was nice to spend time with my friends.' Chloe, Y10.



This week's Staff Reading Recommendation



Please note that the staff recommended reads are for KS5 students and adults.

KJS IS A READING SCHOOL
We are all readers



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YCSA

2026

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